THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) 170 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) out of the 1996 RRBs have earned profit during the year 2000-01.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table to the extent possible.

(c) As a part of banking sector reforms introduced in India, it has been decided to restructure the RRBs on "Stand Alone" basis. Accordingly RRBs are preparing Development Action Plan to attain viability in a specified time-frame. In order to speed up the process of restructuring of RRBs have been provided with recapitalsation support by their shareholders. A series of measures including investment avenues, priority sector norms, prudential norms, etc. at par with commercial banks have been introduced to enable them to improve their financial and operational efficiency. Simultaneously some of the facilities/ concessions hitherto made available to the RRBs have been rationalised, this include:

(i) maintenance of CRR by RRBs at revised rate of 5 5% (as against 3% stipulated earlier) with effect from 12th January, 2002;

(ii) payment of interest on SLR deposits of RRBs by sponsor banks at 0.5% above maximum term deposit rates (as against fixed rate of 13.5% stipulated earlier);

(iii) interest on current account of RRBs maintained with sponsor banks at mutually agreed rate (as against fixed rate prescribed earlier); and

(iv) some of the sponsor banks have stopped bearing the training cost of RRB personnel and reimbursement of salary and allowances of staff of sponsor banks on deputation with RRBs on the ground that their sponsored RRBs have been earning profit and there is no need to continue these concessions to the RRBs.

Flexible pension schemes in unorganised sector

4291. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority has suggested in its report to Government for flexible pension schemes in the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the main points mentioned in the report,

(c) whether Government have examined the report; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Pursuant to the Government's announcement in the Budget 2001-2002, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has submitted a report, which provides a blueprint for implementing pension reforms in the unorganised sector. The report contains suggestions on voluntary schemes to be introduced and flexibility for subscribers to choose a scheme which suits them. The report, *inter-alia*, refers to the 4 components of a pension scheme *viz.* collection, record keeping, money management and pay out of benefits. The issue of educating the public on the various aspects of pension administration is also covered.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government has initiated action in the matter.

Loan under self-employment scheme in U.P.

4292. PROF. M AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount of loans granted to the rural poor, uneducated/educated, skilled/unskilled under the self-employment scheme in of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years by the nationalised and rural banks: bank-wise/category-wise/year-wise;

(b) the details of criteria fixed by each bank for granting loans to these people in the State;

(c) the details of applications lying pending with these banks and whether poor people are facing a lot of difficulties in getting loan; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Loans are being provided by banks to educated unemployed youths for the creation of self employment opportunities under the Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY). The Regional Rural Banks are not participating in the PMRY. Banks and RRBs are also providing loans to the rural poor, uneducated/educated, and skilled/unskilled persons under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY). According to the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India and Bank of Baroda, the Convenor of State